

Serial Number 08/933,822

2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (Withdrawn)

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A process for producing a yarn suitable for tufting, said process comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a bundle consisting essentially of a first base fiber prior to spinning, said first base fiber being selected from the group consisting of polyamides, nylon-6, nylon-6,6, polyesters, polyolefins, cotton, and wool;
- b. ring spinning or wrap spinning the bundle of fiber with a second fiber to form a yarn, said second fiber being twisted or wrapped uniformly around the bundle of fiber and comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point lower than that of said bundle of fiber, said yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight percent of the binder material;
- c. heating the yarn sufficiently to melt the binder material; followed by
- d. cooling the yarn to solidify the binder material.

Claim 18. (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the bundle of fiber is formed by spinning staple fiber.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the first base fiber is nylon-6 having a melt point range of 215 to 225°C.

Claim 23. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the bundle of a first base fiber is selected from the group consisting of a sliver and a bundle of continuous filaments.

Claim 24. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein said second fiber consists essentially of a blend of a second base fiber and a heat activated binder material having a melting point range of 105° to 190°C under ambient conditions.